

March 13, 2017

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VIA FOIA ONLINE

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
Freedom of Information Officer U.S. EPA Region 2
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Re: Lower Hackensack River, Bergen and Hudson Counties, New Jersey

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this document request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq. This request concerns the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") files concerning the Lower Hackensack River identified by CERCLIS ID no.: NJN000201845 and located in Bergen and Hudson Counties. The Lower Hackensack River is defined as the portion of the Hackensack River located between the Oradell Dam and the mouth of the River in Newark Bay. This section of the Hackensack River spans across Bergen and Hudson counties, New Jersey. Oradell Dam is approximately 17 miles north/northeast of the mouth of the Hackensack River and includes approximately 23 River Miles. There are over 17 tributaries to the Hackensack River below the Oradell Dam. Below the Oradell Dam, the river is tidally influenced and brackish (the "Site").

By way of background, in response to many discussions, meetings, and a subsequent letter from Captain Bill Sheehan, Executive Director of the Hackensack Riverkeeper, dated February 10, 2015, the EPA was petitioned to perform a Preliminary Assessment ("PA") of the Hackensack River. The petition stated that the Hackensack River from the Oradell Dam to its mouth in Newark Bay warrants listing on The National Priorities List ("NPL"). The EPA acknowledged receipt of the petition on March 4, 2015, and stated that the petition contained sufficient information to indicate releases to the Hackensack River were possible and additional evaluation is necessary. The EPA accepted the request and planned to conduct a PA with a scheduled completion date within one year of February 10, 2015. The NPL is the list of hazardous waste sites deemed eligible for long-term remedial action financed under the federal Superfund

program. EPA regulations outline a formal process for assessing hazardous waste sites and placing these sites on the NPL.

In particular, pursuant to FOIA, I request any and all records relating to EPA's assessment of the Site for the National Priorities List including, but not limited to:

1. EPA's assessment of the Site for NPL listing, including but not limited to the Site PA and the 2017 Site inspection report relied upon to assess the relative potential of the Site's threat to human health or the environment;
2. Any reports or materials received from the Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the U.S. Public Health Service wherein a health advisory recommends removing people from or any exposure to the Site;
3. EPA's Hazard Ranking System ("HRS") information compiled on the Site to review available data on the Site and determine whether the Site's health or environmental risks are sufficient to qualify it for a Superfund cleanup, including the HRS score given to the HRS score the EPA assessed for the Site;
4. Any material the EPA used to determine that the Site poses a significant threat to public health; and if EPA determined that a cost-effective use of its remedial authority (available only at NPL sites) was favored over its emergency removal authority to respond to the Site.

I ask that you contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss arrangements for providing the requested documents. This firm will of course take responsibility for any necessary copying and/or shipping charges. Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

I ask that you contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss arrangements for providing the requested documents. This firm will of course take responsibility for any necessary copying and/or shipping charges. Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Paul La Gravenis", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Paul La Gravenis